To: Tipton, Lantz[tipton.lantz@epa.gov]
From: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**Sent:** Sun 5/4/2014 10:46:27 AM

Subject: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Weekly Digest Bulletin

# News Release: EPA Recognizes Seven University Teams for Environmental Solutions

04/27/2014

**CONTACT:** 

Cathy Milbourn (News Media Only)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 27, 2014

# **EPA Recognizes Seven University Teams for Environmental Solutions**

**WASHINGTON** – Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced seven winning student teams of EPA's People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3) phase II awards for innovative and sustainable designs to help solve today's complex environmental problems at the 10th annual National Sustainable Design Expo in Washington, D.C.

"As we mark the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the National Sustainable Design Expo and P3 competition, we continue to be inspired by the next generation of scientists and engineers shaping the future of our country," said Bob Perciasepe, U.S. EPA Deputy Administrator. "These students support a vision for the future that encourages a prosperous economy while seeking sustainable and creative solutions to some of the most pressing environmental and health challenges facing our world."

EPA's P3 Program challenges student teams to create designs for a sustainable future while offering quality hands-on experience that brings science, technology, engineering and math classroom learning to life. This year's winners were selected from 35 competing teams following two days of judging by a panel of national experts convened by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Each award-winning team is recommended for a grant of up to \$90,000 to further develop their design, apply it to real world situations, and bring it to the marketplace. Previous P3 award winners have started successful businesses and are marketing their technologies in the U.S. and around the world.

Winners of this year's awards are:

Cornell University, New York, for designing a low-cost monitor for measuring water quality.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Florida, for designing an innovative air conditioning system that runs on solar power.

lowa State University for designing a new kind of fabric made with fibers from bacteria and yeast grown in tea and polymers of corn and soy.

Purdue University, Indiana, for researching how to improve indoor air quality by using plants grown in the air filter of a home HVAC system.

SUNY Stony Brook, New York, for designing and building Poseidon, an ocean energy harvester that converts wave motion into electrical energy.

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, for exploring ways to use green oak or "heart centers," the low-quality part of hardwood logs in U.S. building construction.

University of Wisconsin, Madison, for implementing a campus recycling program for expanded polystyrene packaging thereby diverting almost 2000 boxes and other polystyrene material from landfills in 6 months of operation.

The winning teams announced today received EPA's P3 award and will each be recommended for Phase II funding of a grant up to \$90,000. Phase I funding provided teams with up to \$15,000 to develop their design. In addition to the seven winning team, 17 teams were recognized as Honorable Mentions for their project quality inspiring innovation for environmental solutions.

Now in its tenth year, EPA's P3 program has funded 477 student team projects, that involved over 3,400 undergraduate and graduate students and 1,000 faculty members.

The 2014 National Sustainable Design Expo was held in conjunction with the USA Science and Engineering Festival (USA SEF) at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC. This was the third year of the Festival, the largest science festival in the United States.

More information on the P3 Program and this year's projects: http://www.epa.gov/ncer/p3/

More information on USA SEF: <a href="http://www.usasciencefestival.org/">http://www.usasciencefestival.org/</a>

R109

News Release: TODAY: U.S. EPA Administrator to Give

## Keynote Address at the National Academy of Sciences

04/28/2014 CONTACT:

press@epa.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 28, 2014

# TODAY: U.S. EPA Administrator to Give Keynote Address at the National Academy of Sciences

**WASHINGTON** – On Monday, April 28, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy will deliver a keynote address to the National Academy of Sciences at their 151st annual meeting. Her speech will focus on how EPA progress, built on sound, science has been an engine for American prosperity, innovation, and public health and environmental protections. McCarthy will detail EPA's role in the strong science that people and businesses depend on every day, and will discuss her vision for the increasingly important role of science in the future of health protection and the continuing story of American economic growth.

WHO: U.S. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy

WHAT: Keynote Address

WHEN: Monday, April 28, 9 a.m. EDT

WHERE: National Academy of Sciences Building

2101 Constitution Ave., NW

Washington, D.C. 20418

**RSVP:** Seating is limited, so members of the media who wish to cover the event should RSVP to

news@nas.edu . Those planning to bring a camera need to arrive by 8 a.m. EDT for preset.

**NOTE:** Administrator McCarthy's remarks will also be video webcast live at: http://www.nationalacademies.org/

R106

News Release: EPA Solicits Public Comments on Action Plan for RE-Powering America's Land

04/30/2014

**CONTACT:** 

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 30, 2014

# **EPA Solicits Public Comments on Action Plan** for RE-Powering America's Land

**WASHINGTON** – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking public comments on the draft action plan for its RE-Powering America's Land Initiative. The plan guides EPA's efforts over the next two years to encourage renewable energy development on current and formerly contaminated lands, landfills and mine sites when such development is aligned with the community's vision for the site. The cleanup of contaminated land and the production of renewable energy will provide long-term improvements to air quality in communities, while protecting public health.

In 2010, the RE-Powering America's Land Initiative published its first management plan to provide a useful framework to engage stakeholders on the potential to site renewable energy on contaminated lands and track progress. This second action plan, Action Plan 2.0, identifies activities planned for the next two years.

The agency will solicit comments for 30 days. Comments on the proposed plan are due by Friday, May 30.To submit a comment, please send to cleanenergy@epa.gov

A copy of the draft Action Plan 2.0: http://www.epa.gov/oswercpa/action\_plan.htm

R110

EPA News Release (Region 7): EPA Region 7 to Conduct Removal Action and Radiological Assessment at Beta Chem Lab Facility in Lenexa, Kan.

04/30/2014

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7

11201 Renner Boulevard, Lenexa, KS 66219

Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Nine Tribal Nations

# EPA Region 7 to Conduct Removal Action and Radiological Assessment at Beta Chem Lab Facility in Lenexa, Kan.

Contact Information: Chris V	Whitlev, 913-551-7394.	whitley.christopher@epa.gov

### **Environmental News**

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Lenexa, Kan., April 30, 2014) - EPA Region 7 will begin work next week to remove hazardous chemicals and conduct a radiological assessment of the abandoned and seized Beta Chem Laboratory facility at 14410 West 100<sup>th</sup> Street, in Lenexa, Kan.

Region 7's On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) and EPA contractors will begin the removal and assessment work on Monday, May 5. EPA anticipates the work could take about four weeks to complete.

Beta Chem previously used the 2,000-square-foot facility, situated in the Noon Industrial Park, for the synthesis of radioactive carbon-14 into pharmaceutical compounds for medical research. Between 2006 and 2012, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) tried to compel the company to attain compliance with its Radioactive Materials License, but the company did not comply.

On October 3, 2013, KDHE seized and secured the lab facility, which was found to contain numerous hazardous materials and substances, including compressed gas cylinders and deteriorated containers of various chemicals. In February 2014, KDHE referred the facility to EPA Region 7's Superfund Division for further investigation and removal of the hazardous materials.

EPA's work will occur in two phases. First, OSCs and contractors will address the collection, characterization, segregation and off-site disposal of containers of hazardous substances present at the site. The second phase will include an assessment of the nature and extent of non-containerized hazardous substances, including radiological contamination. Preliminary screening of soils at the back door of the lab facility has detected beta radiation at elevated levels.

Under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as the Superfund law, EPA may take removal actions to abate, prevent, minimize, stabilize, mitigate or eliminate the release or threat of release of hazardous materials when the Agency determines there is a threat to public health or welfare or the environment.

###

Learn more about EPA Region 7

View all Region 7 news releases

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Connect with EPA Region 7 on Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/eparegion7">www.facebook.com/eparegion7</a>

# News Release: EPA Awards \$860,000 to Communities to Reduce Water Pollution, Build Resilience to Climate Change

04/30/2014

CONTACT:

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 30, 2013

## EPA Awards \$860,000 to Communities to Reduce Water Pollution, Build Resilience to Climate Change

**WASHINGTON** — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today announced \$860,000 to help 14 communities expand their use of green infrastructure to reduce water pollution and boost resilience to the impacts of climate change. The funding supports President Obama's Climate Action Plan, which directs federal agencies to

support community-based preparedness and resilience efforts across the country.

"Investing in green infrastructure pays off for our environment and our economy. It reduces water pollution and energy consumption while creating jobs," said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. "These investments help local communities build resilient systems to protect from severe storms, floods, and other impacts of climate change."

In the last three years, EPA has provided \$2.2 million to 37 communities for green infrastructure. This new funding continues the agency's support for communities using green infrastructure to reduce water pollution and protect human health while increasing economic activity and neighborhood revitalization, job creation, energy savings, and open space. Green infrastructure builds resilience to the impacts of climate change, in large part by reducing the burden on local water infrastructure.

## The 14 communities are:

- <u>Ada County, Idaho</u> EPA assistance will help explore stormwater mitigation techniques, concepts, and financing options to support green infrastructure in an area undergoing redevelopment.
- <u>Albuquerque</u>, <u>New Mexico</u> EPA assistance will help with the design and specifications of a rooftop vegetable garden, which will recycle captured rainwater for irrigation.
- <u>Bath, Maine</u> EPA assistance will help produce a feasibility study and conceptual design for a green infrastructure project in order to mitigate flooding and combined sewer overflows while stabilizing and improving the neighborhood.
- <u>Buffalo</u>, <u>New York</u> EPA assistance will help develop a protocol and institutional controls for post-demolition stormwater assessments to verify stormwater control performance and ensure that properties retain their stormwater control during redevelopment.
- <u>Clarkesville</u>, <u>Georgia</u> EPA assistance will help design green infrastructure solutions for a highly impervious downtown area within a small community.
- <u>Denver, Colorado</u> EPA assistance will support the completion of green infrastructure practice criteria suited for ultra-urban environments and transportation projects including design elements, maintenance procedures, and schedules.
- <u>Fall River, Massachusetts</u> EPA assistance will help with the evaluation and concept design of tree plantings to address combined sewer overflows, stormwater and air quality issues, urban heat island effect, and climate change adaptation.
- <u>lowa City, Iowa</u> EPA assistance will help develop conceptual designs for green infrastructure practices for a riverfront property prone to flooding, which is being converted into park space.
- <u>Milwaukee</u>, <u>Wisconsin</u> EPA assistance will help develop a model utility operation and maintenance plan to ensure green infrastructure practices are properly maintained and effective in reducing stormwater runoff.
- Norfolk, Virginia EPA assistance will help identify green infrastructure alternatives to improve water quality and address shoreline erosion for a waterway in an urban

- area with a need to plan for how changes in sea level rise will affect green infrastructure methodology.
- <u>Pueblo de Cochiti, New Mexico</u> EPA assistance will help prepare a plan that will integrate green infrastructure into land use planning, stormwater management, infrastructure improvements, transportation planning and open space for community members.
- <u>Saint Paul, Minnesota</u> EPA assistance will help produce a green infrastructure feasibility study for a waterfront stormwater park in a vacated industrial area undergoing redevelopment.
- Santa Monica, California EPA assistance will help develop a conceptual design for a 100,000- gallon storage tank that will be used to harvest stormwater from a storm drain system, reducing runoff and replacing potable water used to irrigate parkland.
- <u>Scranton, Pennsylvania</u> EPA assistance will help incorporate green infrastructure included under the city's combined sewer overflow long-term control plan into a comprehensive master plan for a newly developing arts district.

Green infrastructure decreases pollution to local waterways by treating rain where it falls and keeping polluted stormwater from entering sewer systems. Green infrastructure tools and techniques include green roofs, permeable materials, alternative designs for streets and buildings, trees, rain gardens and rain harvesting systems. Communities are increasingly using innovative green infrastructure to supplement or substitute for "gray" infrastructure such as pipes, filters, and ponds.

More information on the green infrastructure assistance, progress reports and strategy: <a href="http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/greeninfrastructure/gi\_support.cfm">http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/greeninfrastructure/gi\_support.cfm</a>.

# News Release: EPA Seeks Comment on Proposed Decision to Register Enlist Duo Herbicide Containing the Choline Salt of 2,4-D and Glyphosate

04/30/2014

CONTACT:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 30, 2014

# EPA Seeks Comment on Proposed Decision to Register Enlist Duo Herbicide Containing the Choline Salt of 2,4-D and Glyphosate

**WASHINGTON** - The EPA is making available for a 30-day public comment period a proposed regulatory decision to register Enlist Duo containing glyphosate and the choline salt of 2,4-D for use in controlling weeds in corn and soybeans genetically engineered (GE) to tolerate 2,4-D.

Weeds are becoming increasingly resistant to glyphosate-based herbicides and are posing a problem for farmers. If finalized, EPA's action provides an additional tool to reduce the spread of glyphosate resistant weeds. To ensure that Enlist Duo successfully manages weed resistance problems, the proposal would impose requirements on the manufacturer including robust monitoring and reporting to EPA, grower education and remediation and would allow EPA to take swift action to impose additional restrictions on the manufacturer and the use of the pesticide if resistance develops.

EPA is making this action available for public comment because the choline salt of 2,4-D, which is less prone to drift and volatilization than its other forms, is not currently registered for these uses. Glyphosate, however, is already registered for several varieties of GE soybeans and corn. Since no new use pattern and no new exposures for glyphosate are being considered with this registration action, no further assessment is needed for glyphosate.

2,4-D is one of the most widely used herbicides to control weeds. 2,4-D has been registered for many years in the United States and is registered in dozens of countries, such as Canada, Mexico, Japan, 26 European Union Members, and many member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Public comments on the EPA's proposed regulatory decision must be submitted no later than May 30, 2014. Comments may be submitted to the EPA docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0195 at <a href="https://www.regulations.gov">www.regulations.gov</a>.

After the comment period closes, EPA will review all of the comments and reach a final decision, which the Agency expects to issue in late summer or early fall.

Questions and Answers about this proposal are available at: <a href="http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/2-4-d-glyphosate.html">http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/2-4-d-glyphosate.html</a>

# EPA News Release (Region 7): Statement from EPA Region 7 Administrator Karl Brooks on West Lake Landfill

04/30/2014

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7

11201 Renner Boulevard, Lenexa, KS 66219

Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Nine Tribal Nations

## Statement from EPA Region 7 Administrator Karl Brooks on West Lake Landfill

Contact Information: Ben Washburn, 913-551-7364, washburn.ben@epa.gov

**Environmental News** 

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Lenexa, Kan., April, 30, 2014) - On April 29, I received a letter from Missouri Attorney General Koster suggesting that EPA conduct off-site soil sampling for radiological material associated with the leached barium sulfate waste buried at West Lake Landfill. EPA appreciates the Attorney General's recommendation.

One concern in the Attorney General's letter references haul routes that were used to bring the radiological material to West Lake Landfill. It is important to note that soil sampling has already been conducted along the haul route from the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS) to West Lake Landfill. This testing was conducted by the St. Louis U.S. Army Corps of Engineers FUSRAP in support of their 2005 Record of Decision (ROD) for the North St. Louis County sites. A total of 231 samples were collected and analyzed by FUSRAP for Radium-226, Thorium-230, Thorium-232, and Uranium-238. None of the samples collected exhibited radionuclide concentrations exceeding the proposed surface and subsurface soil remediation goals identified in that Record of Decision.

Region 7 last Friday received information from Dawn Chapman, a Bridgeton resident, which suggested a potential radiation detection off-site at the Bridgeton Municipal Athletic Complex. The individuals collected the soil from a drainage ditch and not from the ball fields. Usefulness of the information provided by Ms. Chapman is limited due to the lack of a quality assurance/quality control plan that was used during the collection and testing of the soil.

Radiation occurs naturally in our environment and is found in granite countertops, canary glass and other antiques like watches, which in most cases do not pose harmful exposure risks. For more details, see www.epa.gov/radtown.

EPA is carefully reviewing the information provided by Ms. Chapman. It should be emphasized that the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) conducted scientifically valid radiation dust sampling near the ball fields in 2013. The results of this testing show that the area remains uncontaminated from the radiologically impacted material (RIM) located in West Lake Landfill and the ball fields are suitable for use. The results of the state's sampling are available in the West Lake Landfill Radiological Survey Report, dated May 16, 2013, and available at the MDNR website at:

https://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/hwp/fedfac/documents/2013-5-16-westlake-rad-survey-reportl.pdf.

All validated information available to the state of Missouri and EPA indicates RIM remains confined to the site and that the site is currently protective of public health.

EPA continues to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to provide oversight of the development of the work plans for the responsible parties' construction of the Isolation Barrier and continues to work towards the selection of a long-term remedy for the site. As EPA continues developing our work plans, we'll assess all available data and make determinations that will address any remaining testing requirements.

###

Learn more about EPA's work at West Lake Landfill

Learn more about EPA Region 7

View all Region 7 news releases

# News Brief: EPA Announces Funding Availability to Clean Up Diesel Engines Nationwide / Funding for diesel clean-up targeting cost-effective projects and poor air quality areas

05/01/2014

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2014

# **EPA Announces Funding Availability to Clean Up Diesel Engines Nationwide**

Funding for diesel clean-up targeting cost-effective projects and poor air quality areas

**WASHINGTON** – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced today the availability of \$9 million in grant funding for clean diesel projects to reduce diesel pollution and emissions exposure from the nation's existing fleet of diesel engines.

The funding comes from EPA's Diesel Emission Reduction Program (DERA) and will target the most costeffective projects and fleets operating in areas designated as poor air quality areas.

Diesel engines are extremely efficient but emit air pollutants such as nitrogen oxides (NOx) and particulate matter (PM). These pollutants are linked to a range of serious health problems including asthma, lung and heart disease, other respiratory ailments, and even premature death.

Under this funding, EPA anticipates awarding between 10 and 20 assistance agreements. Various strategies are eligible for achieving diesel emission reductions, such as installing verified exhaust control and idle reduction devices, and vehicle and engine replacement. Projects may include school buses, transit buses, heavy-duty diesel trucks, marine engines, locomotives, and other diesel engines.

Since the start of the DERA program in 2008, it has improved air quality and provided critical health benefits by reducing hundreds of thousands of tons of air pollution and saving millions of gallons of fuel. EPA estimates that clean diesel funding generates up to \$13 of public health benefit for every \$1 spent on diesel projects.

EPA has awarded over 600 DERA grants across the US and reduced more than 250,000 tons of NOx and more than 14,000 tons of PM. Many of these projects fund cleaner diesel engines that operate in

economically disadvantaged communities whose residents suffer from higher-than-average instances of asthma, heart, and lung disease.

The closing date for receipt of proposals is June 17, 2014.

More information and to access the Request for Proposals and other documents: <a href="http://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/prgnational.htm">http://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/prgnational.htm</a>

More information on EPA's National Clean Diesel campaign: http://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel

R113

# EPA News Media Advisory (Region 7): Asthma Awareness Month Resources

05/01/2014

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7

11201 Renner Boulevard, Lenexa, KS 66219

Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Nine Tribal Nations

## **News Advisory - Asthma Awareness Month Resources**

Contact Information: David Bryan, 913-551-7433, bryan.david@epa.gov

**Environmental News** 

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Kansas City, Kan., May 1, 2014) - Asthma is a serious, sometimes life-threatening respiratory disease that affects the quality of life for millions of Americans. Although there is no cure for asthma yet, asthma can be controlled through medical treatment and management of environmental triggers.

May is Asthma Awareness Month. This is part of EPA's ongoing effort to increase public awareness of the asthma epidemic and partner with thousands of organizations taking action to get asthma under control in communities across the nation. EPA promotes scientific understanding of environmental asthma triggers and management through research, education and community-focused outreach. During Asthma Awareness Month, EPA encourages state and local asthma programs to hold community-based events to increase awareness of asthma triggers and the successful strategies for addressing asthma disparities.

Asthma afflicts about 20 million Americans, including 6.3 million children. Since 1980, the biggest growth in asthma cases has been in children under 5. Some of the most common indoor asthma triggers include secondhand smoke, dust mites, mold, cockroaches and other pests, household pets, and combustion byproducts.

"Improving air quality is one of EPA's top priorities, and our commitment is stronger than ever during Asthma Awareness Month," said Karl Brooks, EPA Region 7 administrator. "By working together with diverse partners in communities across our four-state region, we are making a real difference in the lives of people dealing with asthma."

As part of Asthma Awareness Month, EPA Region 7 has put together a number of resources you might use to promote asthma awareness in your news stories and features.

### Program References/Resources:

- General Asthma Information: <a href="http://www.epa.gov/asthma/index.html">http://www.epa.gov/asthma/index.html</a>
- EPA Asma en Espanol: <a href="www.epa.gov/iaq/espanol/asma.html">www.epa.gov/iaq/espanol/asma.html</a>
- National Asthma Awareness Month: <a href="http://www.epa.gov/asthma/awareness.html">http://www.epa.gov/asthma/awareness.html</a>
- Children's Asthma Campaign Fight Asthma, Learn More campaign: http://noattacks.org/
- Student Curriculum: Recipes for Healthy Kids and a Healthy Environment: http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochp/ochpweb.nsf/content/curriculum.htm
- Publications and Resources: http://www.epa.gov/asthma/publications.html
- Multimedia Resources (videos, audio, podcasts): <a href="http://www.epa.gov/asthma/multimedia.html">http://www.epa.gov/asthma/multimedia.html</a>
- Federal Partners and Expert Contacts: http://www.epa.gov/asthma/partners.html
- National Asthma Control Initiative (NACI): http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/prof/lung/asthma/naci/
- Indoor AlRepair Kit, Allergy and Asthma Network/Mothers of Asthmatics for home, school and play: <a href="http://www.aanma.org/publication/indoor-air-repair-kit/">http://www.aanma.org/publication/indoor-air-repair-kit/</a>
- National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) Data: http://www.cdc.gov/asthma/nhis/default.htm

###

More information about asthma

View all Region 7 news releases

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Join the conversation on asthma awareness: @EPARegion7 #asthma

Visit EPA Region 7's Scribd page: www.scribd.com/eparegion7

## VIDEO: Administrator McCarthy Highlights Clean Air Efforts During Asthma Awareness Month / Agency Honors Community-Focused Asthma Programs

05/01/2014 CONTACT: press@epa.gov 202-564-4355

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 1, 2014

# VIDEO: Administrator McCarthy Highlights Clean Air Efforts During Asthma Awareness Month

## Agency Honors Community-Focused Asthma Programs

**WASHINGTON** – Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is recognizing the start of <u>Asthma Awareness Month</u> and highlighting the agency's efforts to improve air quality, protect public health, and take action to address climate change.

"One in ten kids in America today suffers from asthma, which disproportionately impacts communities of color and low-income families," said U.S. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. "Today, we're dealing with new threats like climate change that can worsen the problem. For these reasons and more, taking commonsense climate action is critical if we are serious about protecting public health."

### **CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE ADMINISTRATOR'S VIDEO MESSAGE**

## CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE ADMINISTRATOR'S VIDEO MESSAGE (IN SPANISH)

EPA promotes scientific understanding of environmental asthma triggers and management through research, education and community-focused outreach. As part of EPA's ongoing effort to increase public awareness of asthma and partner with communities across the nation, the agency is also honoring three exceptional programs for improving the lives of people with asthma in underserved communities.

This year's winners are:

Multnomah County Health Department, Portland, OR

Peach State Health Plan, Atlanta, GA Tufts Medical Center, Boston, MA

Since 1990, air quality has improved significantly for ozone and particle pollution, along with lead, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, and sulfur dioxide. EPA, state, and local efforts to reduce emissions from cars, trucks, diesel engines, power plants and other industries all have contributed to the progress we've made to date. From 1990 to 2012, concentrations of common pollutants in the outdoor air have dropped by:

Carbon Monoxide - 75%

Ozone - 14%

Lead - 87%

Nitrogen Dioxide - 46%

Sulfur Dioxide - 72%

PM10 (coarse particles) - 39%

In 2010 alone, EPA achieved pollution reductions through the Clean Air Act that prevented more than an estimated 1.7 million asthma attacks.

Additionally, standards for Boilers and certain incinerators will prevent 42,000 asthma attacks per year, and EPA's Mercury and Air Toxics Standards will now help to prevent 130,000 asthma attacks per year.

In March 2014, EPA finalized cleaner fuel and car standards that will yield between \$6.7 billion to \$19 billion in benefits annually, through reducing health effects such as asthma attacks, premature deaths, heart attacks, and hospital and emergency room visits.

Under the President's Climate Action Plan, EPA is working on a number of fronts to address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, vehicles and other sources. Climate change can have a harmful effect on air quality. For example, scientists project that warmer temperatures from a changing climate will increase the frequency of days with unhealthy levels of ground-level ozone, a harmful air pollutant, and a component in smog. Ground-level ozone can damage lung tissue and can reduce lung function and inflame airways. This can increase respiratory symptoms and aggravate asthma or other lung diseases. It is especially harmful to children, older adults, outdoor workers, and those with asthma and other chronic lung diseases.

Download a higher quality version of the Administrator's video here or in Spanish here.

Download English and Spanish radio actualities from the Administrator's video here: http://go.usa.gov/kAc3

Learn more about Asthma Awareness Month and the winners of the 2014 National Environmental Leadership Award in Asthma Management: <a href="http://www.epa.gov/asthma">http://www.epa.gov/asthma</a>

R114

# TOMORROW: U.S. EPA Administrator to Address the National Wildlife Federation

05/01/2014

CONTACT:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 1, 2014

## **TOMORROW: U.S. EPA Administrator to Address** the National Wildlife Federation

**WASHINGTON** – Tomorrow, Friday, May 2 at 9:30 a.m., U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy will address the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and its state affiliates. She will focus on NWF's theme for their annual meeting, *Water: It Connects Us All.* 

WHO: U.S. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy

WHAT: Remarks to the National Wildlife Federation

WHEN: Friday, May 2, 2014; 9:30 a.m. EDT

WHERE: Embassy Suites Baltimore Downtown and Grand Historic Venue

222 St. Paul Place Baltimore, Md. 21202

R115

News Release: TODAY: U.S. EPA Administrator to Address the National Wildlife Federation

05/02/2014
CONTACT:
press@epa.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 2, 2014

TODAY: U.S. EPA Administrator to Address the National Wildlife Federation

**WASHINGTON** – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy will address the National Wildlife Federation, and its state affiliates, to discuss the theme of Water: It Connects Us All today at 9:30 a.m. at their annual meeting.

**WHO:** U.S. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy

WHAT: Remarks to the National Wildlife Federation

**WHEN:** Friday, May 2, 2014; 9:30 a.m. EDT

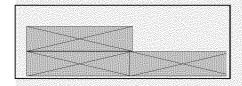
WHERE: Embassy Suites Baltimore Downtown and Grand Historic Venue

222 St. Paul Place Baltimore, Md. 21202

## R116

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